

Message Text

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51

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AECE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-03 L-02

NSAE-00 OIC-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-14 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07 DRC-01 /076 W

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0495

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0304

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS OCTOBER
8, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE OCTOBER 8, INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE CANADIAN REP, FRG REP, AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN AND POLISH REP STRULAK. THE DISCUSSION CONTINUED TO CONCENTRATE ON THE QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET. SOVIET REP KHLESTOV WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO URGE THAT PARTICIPANTS CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING ON THIS TOPIC, BUT EAST ALSO REITERATED ITS NEGATIVE POSITION TOWARDS WESTERN LINKAGE PROPOSALS. REVERTING TO A POINT HINTED AT BY KHLESTOV IN JULY 15 INFORMAL SESSION PRIOR TO SUMMER BREAK, POLISH REP STRULAK SUGGESTED IN PASSING THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD

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ENTER ON THE SAME GENERAL PLEDGE TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES AND

THEN SUBSEQUENTLY NEGOTIATE ON AMOUNT AND TIMING OF REDUCTIONS. THIS APPROACH, WHICH IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE EASTERN FIRST STEP CONCEPT, WAS, HOWEVER, NOT FORMALLY ADVANCED AS AN EASTERN PROPOSAL.

2. US REP AS FIRST SPEAKER POINTED OUT THAT EAST HAD AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS NEEDED IMPETUS OF SOME SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS, THAT PRIORITY ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET, THAT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD SEEK FOR MIDDLE GROUND AND A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION OF THIS QUESTION. DESPITE THESE PROFESSIONS, EAST HAD REVERTED TO ITS ORIGINAL POSITION OF NOVEMBER 8, 1973 ON THIS TOPIC, WHILE ALLIES HAD ADVANCED A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF PROPOSALS BRINGING THEM TO THE MIDDLE GROUND. IN RESPONSE, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV CLAIMED THAT WEST SHOWED LACK OF REALISM BOTH IN ITS OVERALL APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IN ITS TREATMENT OF PHASING. HIS CENTRAL POINT WAS THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THE EAST TO ACCEPT A CHANGE IN THE OVERALL EAST-WEST BALANCE THROUGH AN AGREEMENT WHICH DEALT WITH ONLY ONE FORCE ELEMENT. HE SAID EAST WANTED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION ON WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET, BUT HAD NOT YET HEARD ANY CONVINCING REASONS FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES WHY ALL SHOULD NOT REDUCE THEIR FORCES FROM THE OUTSET. ALLIED REPS INTRODUCED IDEAS THAT NO INCREASE AND REVIEW CLAUSE COULD HAVE SAME DURATION OF FIVE YEARS AND THAT PERIOD BETWEEN PHASES SHOULD NOT BE LONGER THAN 18 MONTHS.

3. POLISH REP STRULAK STRESSED THE NEED FOR MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATIONS TO REDUCE ON THE PART OF ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. AT TWO POINTS, HE MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN "EQUAL" COMMITMENT BY ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE, TO BE FOLLOWED BY SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATION OF THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF REDUCTIONS. PUSHED BY SOVIET REP SMIRNOVSKY, DISCUSSIONS GOT SIDETRACKED ONTO TOPIC OF WHY UK WAS NOT PREPARED TO JOIN IN PHASE ONE REDUCTIONS, WITH SMIRNOVSKY STATING THAT SOVIETS CONSIDERED MOVES TOWARDS WESTERN EUROPEAN MILITARY INTEGRATION AS NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENT WHICH COULD UNDERMINE PROSPECTS FOR PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS. US REP CLOSED SESSION BY EMPHASIZING THAT EAST HAD NOT MADE

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COMMENSURATE MOVEMENT WITH WEST TO SOLVE THE QUESTION WHICH BOTH SIDES CONTINUED TO AGREE SHOULD RECEIVE PRIMARY ATTENTION. THE NEXT SESSION WAS SET FOR OCTOBER 15. END SUMMARY. REMAINDER OF REPORT BEING SENT VIA AIRGRAM.RESOR

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